operational aircraft carriers. Presently, it has only one aircraft carrier namely 'INS Virat'.

2. The Government have approved the indigenous construction of an Air Defence Ship (ADS) for the Navy in 1999. In addition, an Inter-Governmental agreement (IGA) has been signed with the Government of the Russian Federation in October, 2000 for the acquisition of an Aircraft Carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov'. The Detailed Project Document (DPD) furnished by the Russian Side on various aspects of the 'Admiral Gorshkov' Project, prior to its acquisition, has been examined. However, an investment decision on the acquisition of 'Admiral Gorshkov' has not yet been taken.

Private Participation in R&D of defence sector

1074. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is seeking private participation in R&D of defence sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what percentage of budget of the Ministry is being spent on R&D at present;

(d) whether Government have any proposal from foreign multi-national companies in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) and (b) Government is encouraging enhanced participation of private sector companies in Defence R&D to pool national resources. In the last decade a large number of private sector companies have come forward to participate in number of technology disciplines including electronics, engineering, microwave devices, structural systems, armament sub-systems, authomative power packs, aerospace components, components for armoured vehicles and military equipment/stores.

(c) At present 5.66% of budget of Ministry of Defence is spent on Research and Development.

(d) and (e) Government has not received any proposal from any foreign multinational companies in this regard.

Mobile van facility in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh by C.S.D.

†1075. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where mobile van facility by Canteen Stores Department has been extended;

(b) the number of districts not provided with this facility and the district-wise number of ex-servicemen residing therein; and

(c) the reasons for not extending the facility in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) All 45 districts in Madhya Pradesh and 12 out of 16 districts in Chhattisgarh have been provided mobile van facility by Canteen Stores Department.

(b) The four districts in Chhattisgarh where mobile van facility has not been provided and the number of ex-servicemen in these districts is given below:-

Name of District	No. of Ex-servicemen
(i) Raipur	710
(ii) Bilaspur	912
(iii) Raigarh	940
(iv) Bastar	43

(c) The facility of mobile van has not been extended in these districts as it is not economically viable.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.